

DESPOTISM

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF TYRANNY



*Elder citizens of Red China, in sordid isolation from their kin and friends,
awaiting quickened death by malnutrition and utter frustration.*

by **DAGOBERT D. RUNES**

A PHILOSOPHICAL LIBRARY *book*



Despotism

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF TYRANNY

This book is conceived and written in purposeful anger. It thrusts us into the dark side of history, which we seldom hear about in our classrooms and which, it often appears, we would like to forget. But forgetting in mind does not erase in conscience.

Of the truths and lessons that history has to teach us, those contained in this compelling and immensely readable study are most important for the future of mankind. The author departs from the familiar and ineffectually abstract conclusions that most historians draw about the progress of mankind and the inevitability of events. Instead, he forcefully plunges into the very body and soul of man's history, a biography written in blood on the fabric of man's mutilated dignity. He considers not the few who were and are the beneficiaries of history, but the many who were and are its victims.

Through a skillful union of words and pictures, the eternal human emotions of pity and fear are evoked: Pity for the multitudes who suffered and died unjustly for the sake of man's "progress," and fear that many of the evil instruments of this

Pizarro seizing the Inca of Peru.



*Donna Zimena
demands justice
against the Cid.*



progress are still being employed in the service of political, racial and religious fanaticism.

The book is written from the point-of-view of the common man throughout history. It is composed by a humanitarian who has felt the continuing agony of history. It is a book that must be read by anyone who is seriously concerned about the course of man's future.

Have the Caesars, the Alexanders, the Constantines and the Napoleons of history been put into proper perspective by historians when today they are lionized and hailed as the heroes of history? What is to prevent the Hitlers, the Stalins and the Maos of present times from being equally admired in future centuries? Is the Machiavellian ideal, as it has been in the past, to be the device of man's future tragedy? If such is possible, it will mean that man has, truly, not progressed at all.

The lesson of this book is clear beyond any doubt. Man has suffered a great deal more from history than he has benefitted by it. Why? The answer is tellingly supplied by Runes's ample documentation of centuries of tyranny and despotism. Abhor-



*Jewish women led to the execution chamber in Nazi concentration camps.
Note the smile and sneer of the German guards.*



*The prison of Socrates, hewn out of the rocks at Athens.
A monument to man's fight for freedom.*

rent as the answer is, however, it provides a hope for the future, if ordinary men and leaders alike will only assent to its truth.

Here, then, is a view of history that has never before been put forth. It is a singular view that is both true and frightening. It has long been needed.

Conventional historical studies are traditionally fact-filled and informative. Although they are objectively useful in giving us some idea of the people and events that have contributed to the shape of our world, they are usually feeble in promoting a deeper awareness of the lessons of history. Such is the difference between knowledge and wisdom. This is a book that spans that gap.



The Helvetians pass the Romans under the yoke.

PHILOSOPHICAL LIBRARY, Inc.

15 East 40th Street, New York 16, N. Y.

Please send me a copy of "DESPOTISM" @ \$10.00.

☐ Remittance enclosed

☐ Send bill

Name

Address

City Zone State

REGULAR PRICE \$12.50

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER: \$10.00

(Expedite shipment and save mailing cost by enclosing remittance)



A peasant bride led to the lord's chamber, who claims his feudal right to the first night.

About the Author

DAGOBERT D. RUNES

The author, a Doctor of Philosophy, has written and edited numerous books and other publications, among them: *Dictionary of Philosophy*, *Twentieth Century Philosophy*, *The Hebrew Impact on Western Civilization*, *Letters to my Son*, *Spinoza Dictionary*, *Of God, the Devil and the Jews*, *Treasury of Philosophy*, *On the Nature of Man*, *The Wisdom of the Torah*, *Treasury of World Literature*, *A Book of Contemplation*, *Letters to my God*, *Dictionary of Thought*. He is the former director of the Institute for Advanced Education. Among the many scientific journals he has edited are: *Journal of Aesthetics*, *Philosophical Abstracts*, *The Modern Thinker*.



PHILOSOPHICAL LIBRARY

FIFTEEN EAST FORTIETH STREET

NEW YORK